

HOTCHKISS

BEESLICK BROOK WOODS

- A. From this **viewing platform** next to an open marsh, you can glimpse kingfishers, herons, osprey, turtles, and the occasional otter.
- B. The regional bedrock can be seen in this **limestone outcrop**. The weathering of this rock contributes to the rich soils and high calcium content of the lakes and streams in our area. Interesting species, like the walking fern (*Asplenium rhizophyllum*), are strictly limited to outcroppings like this one.
- C. In the absence of human activity, patchy **blowdowns** like this represent the most important form of disturbance in New England's forests. The gaps created in the canopy alter the environment at ground level, creating conditions that maintain biodiversity on a landscape scale.
- D. The sedimentary origins and chemical solubility of the limestone bedrock is nicely demonstrated in the cascading **Beeslick Brook Falls**. During the springtime snow melt, torrential runoff is funneled through the narrow crevices that have been eroded through the fractured bedding planes of the rock.
- E. When the seasonally high water table meets depressions in the landscape, **vernal pools** form. These ephemeral wetlands are important breeding habitats for many species of amphibians.
- F. Along both sides of this road, it is possible to "read" some of the history of the forest. If you look carefully, you will be able to spot remnants of stone walls, skeletal red cedars, and a few large, old trees, whose form betrays that they were once growing in an open field. The current canopy is almost entirely sugar maple — trees whose seedlings sprouted in the cool shade of the white pine, which recolonized this site when the pasture was abandoned 80 to 90 years ago.
- G. Created through a generous gift from the Larsen family — Jonathan '57, Christopher '55, P'82, '88, Mark '82, and Chad '88 — the **Larsen Perimeter Trail** is a continuous footpath encircling the Hotchkiss campus. The trail highlights points of natural beauty as it traverses Beeslick Woods, Sucker Brook, and Fairfield Farm.

POINTS OF INTEREST

1. **MAIN BUILDING**
2. **FORREST E. MARS JR. ATHLETIC CENTER**
3. **CIRCLE OF MAPLES**

These mature sugar maples are a beautiful and dramatic reminder that the north woods are in the later stages of succession. Cedars have given way to white pines and hemlocks, which are now dying back in favor of dominant northern hardwoods, particularly maple and white ash.
4. **SPECIMEN WHITE OAK**

White oaks are not common on the farm. This magnificent specimen sprouted on this spot well over 200 years ago. Imagine the changes in both the natural and man-made landscape that it has witnessed over time.
5. **BEESLICK BUNGALOW**

This cattle shed was built on timber skids, allowing it to be dragged by tractor to fields where the herds were grazing. Students have added windows, a floor, and sliding doors, making the structure perfect for overnight camping or simply shelter from a storm.
6. **GLACIAL ERRATIC**

This isolated boulder was deposited on this gentle slope in the wake of a retreating glacier. Once surrounded by a grassy meadow, thick stands of red cedar now populate the hillside and obscure the view to Beeslick Pond.
7. **HICKORY KNOLL**

At the southern terminus of the south woods transect stands this small grove of shagbark hickory. The nuts are a vital food source for various forest mammals. Mature trees are easily identified by the curly plates of gray bark, which give the trees their "shaggy" appearance.
8. **THE CEDARS**

This dense grove of eastern red cedar provides a cool summertime oasis for grazing cattle and whitetail deer. Note the interwoven tangles of honeysuckle that cluster around the limestone boulders on the northern and southern peripheries.
9. **GAZEBO**

A short walk south from the farm center, this open, breezy structure offers commanding views east across Beeslick Pond and west toward Indian Mountain and the twin oaks field.
10. **FAIRFIELD FARM**



Please see map on the reverse for all locations.



MAP LEGEND

- HOTCHKISS BOUNDARY
- ROAD
- HOTCHKISS SCHOOL BUILDINGS
- OTHER BUILDINGS (NON-SCHOOL)
- LAKE OR POND
- RIVER OR STREAM
- WETLANDS
- 50 FT. CONTOUR
- 5 FT. CONTOUR

LARSEN PERIMETER TRAIL

- LARSEN TRAIL

BEESLICK WOODS TRAILS

- MIKE'S TRAIL
- BLUE TRAIL
- BLUE TRAIL (PROPOSED)

- WHITE OAK TRAIL
- WHITE DOUBLE TRACK TO CABIN
- WHITE DOUBLE TRACK TO LARSEN
- SINGLE TRACK SPUR
- PAINTED YELLOW
- ORANGE TRAIL
- ORANGE SPUR
- BEESLICK CASCADE TRAIL

FAIRFIELD FARM TRAILS

- MARKET GARDEN LOOP
- FIELD CONNECTOR
- CIRCLE OF MAPLES TRAIL
- FARM WOODS
- BIKE SKILLS PARK



CODE OF CONDUCT

Parts of The Hotchkiss School trails are not on the School's property. Please take notice of and have respect while on neighboring properties. Give a wide berth to horses and announce your presence to the rider. Dogs must be under physical or verbal control at all times and are not permitted in some areas. Pack out what you pack in and leave no trace.

This map is intended for informational purposes only. Trail locations are not exact. It is the sole responsibility of all users to ensure their safety at all times. In case of emergency dial 911 or call campus security at (860) 435-2591